

R E M A R K S

In reply to Paragraph No. 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, references to claim numbers in the specification were replaced with references to embodiments of the present invention.

The amendment to claim 22 regarding the "semisolid metal annealing furnace" is supported in the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the specification.

Claims 1 to 13, 16 to 19 and 30 to 40 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth in Paragraph No. 2 on page 2 of the Office Action.

The claims were amended to avoid the 35 USC 112 rejection.

It is respectfully solicited that the present claims comply with all the requirements of 35 USC 112.

The claims were free of any prior art rejections.

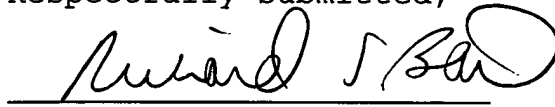
Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

An INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT is filed concomitantly herewith.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: (1) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(2) PETITION FOR EXTENSION